

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 7, 14 and 18 are amended by the present amendment.

Claim amendments find support in the application as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7, 14 and 18 were objected to and Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,452,299 to Thessin et al. (herein "Thessin").

Regarding the objection to the claims, Claims 7, 14 and 18 are amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Thessin.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an electronic conference system including, in part, a first information processing equipment (e.g., speaker's equipment) that has an information acquisition device for acquiring information regarding a second information processing equipment (e.g., audience's equipment), and a producing device for producing the presentation data according to the acquired information regarding the second information processing equipment. Independent Claims 6-8, 13 and 14 include similar features.

Applicants respectfully submit that Thessin fails to teach or suggest each of the claimed features in Claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14. Thessin only describes a teleconferencing system in which large object data is transferred by partitioning it into data blocks of a size corresponding to a transport medium capability, such as a connection speed between two

participants.<sup>1</sup> In other words, Thessin indicates that the transport medium capability is a characteristic of the connection between two participants, not a characteristic of the equipment used by each participant. Consequently, Thessin actually fails to teach or suggest acquiring information regarding the audience's equipment and producing the presentation data according to the acquired information at the speaker's equipment.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion in the Office Action that Thessin discloses claimed features at column 5, lines 7-49, and column 6, lines 10-50.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, at column 5, lines 7-49, Thessin merely describes a configuration of an agent 100 shown in Fig. 1B, and at column 6, lines 10-50, Thessin merely describes a software procedure shown in Fig. 2, so that these quoted portions completely fail to describe any teaching for acquiring information regarding the audience's equipment and producing the presentation data according to the acquired information at the speaker's equipment.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14, and claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Thessin.

Moreover, Claim 15 is directed to an electronic conference system that includes, in part, a first information processing equipment (e.g., speaker's equipment) that has a spare data producing device for producing spare data obtained by converting a data format of the original data, such that both the spare data and the presentation data containing the original data are transmitted to a second information processing equipment (e.g., audience's equipment). Further, the second information processing equipment has a display data producing device for producing the display data from the spare data or the original data. Independent Claims 17 and 18 include similar features.

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<sup>1</sup> Thessin at Abstract and col. 13, line 55 to col. 14, line 10.

<sup>2</sup> Office Action at page 3, lines 5-13.

Applicants respectfully submit that Thessin fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent Claims 15, 17 and 18. As described above, Thessin only indicates a teleconferencing system in which large object data is transferred by partitioning it into data blocks of a size corresponding to a capability of a transport medium, such as the speed of the connection between two participants.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion in the outstanding Office Action that Thessin's Figs. 12a-c and column 17, line 40 to column 18, line 37 disclose the claimed spare data and converting data.<sup>3</sup> However, Thessin's Figs. 12a-c only show how a data portion that is already transferred and a data portion that is remaining to be transferred will be changed when a request from participant D is added to requests from participants A and C.<sup>4</sup> Further, column 17, line 40 to column 18, line 37 is silent regarding any data format conversion. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that Thessin fails to teach or suggest any teaching for producing the spare data obtained by converting data format of the original data. Thessin also fails to disclose any teaching for transmitting both the spare data and the presentation data containing the original data from the speaker's equipment, and producing the display data from the spare data as the original data at the audience's equipment.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 15, 17 and 18, and claims depending therefrom, also patentably define over Thessin.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1-18 are allowable.

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<sup>3</sup> Office Action at page 4, lines 6-10.

<sup>4</sup> Thessin at column 17, line 40, to column 18, line 1.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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